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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT WASHINGTON

November 9, 1987



MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretaries of Departments and

Heads of Agencies

As you are all painfully aware, the International Conferences and Contingencies account has gone from roughly \$9 million (FY-86) to \$6 million (FY-87) to a projected \$4.6 million for FY-88.

With only \$4.6 million available to fund over 600 conferences, we simply can't "thin the soup" any longer with other agencies without doing further serious damage to our own conference participation. Therefore, consistent with Congressional intent, I have directed the Office of International Conference Programs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, to cease funding for all conference participants other than State Department delegates effective immediately.

Clearly, there are many meetings which the United States must attend to protect U.S. interests and advance policies of particular importance. It is vital during this critical period that we not impose isolation of the United States by curtailing necessary conference attendance. I therefore urge that you weigh participation in international conferences and meetings against the scale of national interest and ensure that we do not attend meetings of marginal importance or include non-essential personnel on delegations. In these straitened circumstances, we must make significantly greater use of personnel already stationed abroad.

I recognize that travel funds for all Government Agencies have also been cut, but urge you to make every effort to share the load by funding your essential personnel from resources available within your allocation, possibly combining conference participation with other Agency travel. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the conference funding support you have given us over the last two fiscal years.

Other U.S. Government departments and agencies are being informed of this critical funding situation and asked to extend their cooperation.

Ronald I. Spiers